

## **LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **Community Affairs Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2010**

**2:05 P.M.**

**Third Floor, City Hall**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Chair:</b>	<b>CW Shanklin</b>
	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	<b>CM Hawkins (Excused Absence)</b>
	<b>Members:</b>	<b>CM Henderson</b>

**Also Present:** CW Bryant Hamilton, CW Woolridge and CW Welch

CW Shanklin began the meeting by announcing the members and non-members of the committee that were present. A quorum was established.

Chairwoman Shanklin stated they would be talking about several issues with Mr. Mims because sometimes people in the community do not know what the Law is. She stated summer is coming and there will be problems with high grass, vacant lots and various other problems.

### **Special Items For Discussion**

#### **Code Enforcement and Citations – James Mims**

James Mims, Director of Codes and Regulations, and Beth Bishop, Administrative Coordinator, Codes and Regulations, introduced themselves to the Committee. The following was discussed.

#### **Concerns:**

- Junk Pick-up- wrong information given to citizens in the Portland and Shawnee area
- Citizens should not be held responsible for wrong information
- Property referred by Inspections Permits and License (IPL) to be clean and cut - who is responsible to do the work
- Need the State to make some changes
- Length of time it takes Public Works to respond to complaints
- Foreclosure- Who is responsible and why does it take so long for the foreclosed properties to be cleaned-up
- Would like to have Public Works to come before the Committee
- Vacant properties that need to be boarded-up
- It does not seem as if there is enough property in the Landbank Authority – The City does not seem to be aggressively acquiring the properties
  - Constructive use of abandoned property – during the time of the Board of Alderman people were able to purchase property for a \$1.00 and make constructive use of the property
  - Look at reinstituting the \$1.00 policy
- The Bank holds the mortgage
- What records are kept of an individual that continues to get fines – would like to see the records – CM Henderson requested
- People not cutting their grass
- Cutting of the easement
- Need a better system
- Council Members not allowed to give money
- Abandon, Residential and Commercial property that is not kept up
- Identifying the property and citing right away
- Code Enforcement Board dismissing cases
- 50% repeat offenders – should not be able to happen

- Liens and locating property owners
- Need plan for absentee owners
- Can Liens be given to a collection agency
- Handicap Parking
- Section 8 Housing Inspection – Request for information on how it is handled
- Section 8 – Doesn't have garbage pick-up
- Investors trying to stop demolition so they can purchase the property
- Working with the Code Enforcement Board, County Attorney's Office, Banks and Lien Department
- Committee suggested a meeting with Public Works, Code Enforcement and the Metro Council to try to solve the problems

Mr. Mims Comments:

- Code Enforcement is willing to work with Metro Council
- Have a hard time locating property owners
- Banks are cited for not taking care of the property they own
- If Banks don't have the title of a house they may not be getting the citations
- The Commissioner can waive a lien
- Code Enforcement waives liens if they make a mistake
- There are millions of dollars of liens on properties that are uncollected
- Difficult to get approval for demolition of a house
- Processed 200 demolitions last year – 81 were utilizing municipal funds to do the work
- There are many houses that need to be demolished – not enough money available
- It takes a year for all of the red tape to get a release to demolish a house
- It takes \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 to demolish a house
  - The price has come down this past year
- Vacant and Abandoned Property is a great problem
  - How to gain control of the property
  - What are you going to do with the property as a government if you have them
- Foreclosure takes six months to a year
- Last year Code Enforcement completed 36,000 Section 8 Inspections
  - Housing Authority does some inspections
- Market Rate Rental Property has become a critical problem
- Neighborhood and Community Outreach Groups - Notification of demolitions - how do you get on the list – Contact Connie Ewing, Planning and Design Services – 574-6230

**Motion to adjourn made by CM Henderson, without objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM**

**\*NOTE: Items sent to the Consent Calendar or Old Business will be heard before the full Council at the April 27, 2010 Council Meeting.**

**MEM**